

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 7-17. Claim 18 has been indicated to be allowed. Claims 8, 11, 13-14, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 7, 9, 12, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,257,966 to *Ishikawa et al.* Claim 7, 9-10, 12, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,241,583 to *White*. *Ishikawa et al.* has an effective date as a reference of April 26, 1999. *White* has an effective date as a references as of April 30, 1999 and is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/244,456 filed on February 4, 1999. The present application claims priority to Japanese Application No. 10-273640, filed September 28, 1998. A copy of a certified translation of the Japanese priority application is attached. It is respectfully submitted that *Ishikawa et al.* and *White* are not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) against the present application.


It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 7-18, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: Aug, 20, 2003

By: 
Harold R. Brown III
Registration No. 36,341

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620